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(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Municipal administration and the municipal officers were used for the collection of funds for the above celebrations ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That may be a fact for the hon. Member, but I have no such information.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Is it a fact that the municipal funds were utilised for constructing arches and these were also put up in a hurried way before the civil court order could be pronounced ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information, Sir. If the hon. Member wants any further information, he may put a question to the Hon. the Minister in charge of Local Administration.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Is there any prohibition, Sir, in a democracy against Ministers collecting funds for the party ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That depends upon the party directions and party advice.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Is it a fact, Sir, that the Hon. Ministers officially went very near a point to the place where these Birth Day celebrations were to be held and claimed travelling allowance, and from there attended the celebrations ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That is all in the imagination of the hon. Member.

Accidents in motor traffic

* 168. *Q.*—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of accidents in which motor vehicles were involved in the State during 1964–65;

(b) the number of accidents that proved fatal ; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the number of accidents ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) The number of motor vehicle accidents that occurred in the State during 1964–65 is as follows :—

Fatal	702
Major	1,249
Minor	4,957
Total	6,908

(c) A statement [a] is placed on the Table of the House.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 56–57 infra.

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SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : May I know, Sir, the comparative figures for the previous years ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The number is coming down. In 1959–60 we had 7,830, in 1960–61 it was 7,806, in 1961–62 it was 7,602 in 1962–63 is was 7,439, in 1964–65 it was 7,321 and now it is 6,908.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. Minister agree with me when I say that while the total number is coming down the number of fatal accidents is increasing year after year?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, that is the information that I gave on the last occasion.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The Minister in his reply has detailed the many steps and measures that have been taken to prevent accidents. But those measures are not properly implemented. Will the Government take steps to implement those measures properly ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, every effort is made to implement them properly.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, for instance under item (12) it is stated that continuous drives are organised to round up stray cattle and keep the pavements free from vendors and hawkers. In spite of that we see in all streets stray cattle everyday and at all hours of the day and vendors and hawkers an through

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It requires public co-operation to enforce all these measures.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : In how many incidents were the Hon. Ministers involved and what punishments were awarded to the drivers concerned ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A separate question may be put. I am sure the sympathy of the entire House will go to the Ministers who have suffered in the accidents.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, under item (2) it is said that speed limit boards are erected on roads wherever necessary, and speed traps are held regularly to put down overspeeding. Are the Government aware that it is not only overspeed but the negligence on the part of the people concerned to observe the road rules that is responsible for these accidents ? Will the Government take steps to see that these road rules are observed ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, again this is a matter in which there must be co-operation from the pedestrians, the motorists and the general public. Unfortunately there is the impression that these rules could be made effective by enforcement. Mere enforcement will not be effective. There should be co-operation from all sides. I deeply regret that the feeling that the pedestrians and the public should co-operate is slowly decreasing.

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SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Government consider the proposal to issue licences to drivers with not less than 10 years service to drive heavy vehicles ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, if the hon. Member suggests that in order to qualify for a heavy endorsement, the applicant must have put in ten years of service as an ordinary driver, we will be put to very great difficulties to find men to man our transport buses. On the other hand we are trying to give training, so far as State Transport is concerned, for our drivers in the training school run by us. We are also contemplating some measures to give training for heavy duty vehicle drivers.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : As the Hon. Minister pointed out, because of lack of co-operation from the public, I suggest a more strict enforcement of the rules. Will the Government consider and do the needful. 3-10 p.m.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We are as strict as possible. There is a limit beyond which we cannot be strict.

Textile Mills in the State

* 169. *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of DR. T. V. Sivanandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of Textile Mills in the State which have gone into production in the years 1959 and 1964;

(*b*) the total cost of (i) cotton produced in the State and (ii) cotton imported from foreign countries consumed in 1959 and 1964 ; and

(*c*) the total number of textile mills licensed yet to go on production as on 30th April 1965 ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN . (a) One textile mill went into production in 1959 and eleven in 1964.

(*b*) Cotton produced in 1959–60 and 1964–65 was 3,86,870 bales and 4,30,400 bales respectively.

(*c*) 28.

Industrial Co-operative Societies

* 170 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of DR. T. V. Sivanandam : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number and names of Industrial Co-operative Societies for weavers in Coimbatore and Salem districts as on the latest available date with year of starting;

(*b*) the financial assistance and other help given by the Government to each society so far; and